

February 1, 2025

## 21 in Manhattan

Club 21, often simply known as "21," is a legendary establishment in Manhattan with a rich history and a treasure trove of folklore and legends. Here are some of the most intriguing stories:

1. **\*\*Prohibition-Era Speakeasy\*\***: Club 21 started as a speakeasy during Prohibition. It was originally known as the Red Head and later moved to its iconic location at 21 West 52nd Street. The club was famous for its elaborate methods to hide alcohol from the authorities, including a system of

levers that would tip shelves and send liquor bottles into the sewers.

2. **\*\*Secret Wine Cellar\*\***: One of the most famous legends is the secret wine cellar, which was accessed through a hidden door in a brick wall. This cellar stored the private collections of many celebrities, including John F. Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor, and Frank Sinatra.

3. **\*\*Celebrity Patrons\*\***: Over the years, Club 21 has hosted numerous celebrities and influential figures. The club's guest list included names like Ernest Hemingway, Marilyn Monroe, and Judy Garland. The club's iron gate, which dates back to

1926, has seen countless famous faces pass through.

4. **\*\*The Jockeys\*\***: The entrance to Club 21 is famously guarded by 37 ornamental jockey statues, donated by patrons. These statues are painted to match the winning jockeys of horses owned by the club's patrons.

5. **\*\*Art Collection\*\***: The club boasts an impressive art collection, including works by Frederick Remington and cartoon dedications from Walt Disney. Many pieces were acquired during the Great Depression as settlements for bar tabs.

6. **\*\*Infamous Raids\*\***: Despite being raided by the police multiple times during Prohibition, the club's clever design and secret compartments ensured that it was never caught with illegal alcohol.

Club 21's rich history and the legends that surround it make it a fascinating piece of New York City's cultural tapestry. Its legacy continues to captivate the imaginations of those who hear its stories.